



## 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent

*Preaching and teaching the truth to His expanding kingdom, reaching out to all!*

December 24, 2023

The Lutheran Church & School of Messiah  
840 N. 11th St. Grand Junction, CO 81501  
970-245-2838

The 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday in Advent  
(December 24, 2023)

*The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.*

## Divine Service 4

### Sharing of Christ's Peace (Shalom)

#### 343 Prepare the Royal Highway

1 Prepare the royal highway;  
The King of kings is near!  
Let ev'ry hill and valley  
A level road appear!  
Then greet the King of Glory  
Foretold in sacred story: Refrain

ref Hosanna to the Lord,  
For He fulfills God's Word!

2 God's people, see Him coming:  
Your own eternal king!  
Palm branches strew before Him!  
Spread garments! Shout and sing!

God's promise will not fail you!  
No more shall doubt assail you! Refrain

3 Then fling the gates wide open  
To greet your promised king!  
Your king, yet ev'ry nation  
Its tribute too should bring.  
All lands, bow down before Him!  
All nations, now adore Him! Refrain

4 His is no earthly kingdom;  
It comes from heav'n above.  
His rule is peace and freedom  
And justice, truth, and love.  
So let your praise be sounding  
For kindness so abounding: Refrain

Text: Frans Mikael Franzén, 1772–1847; tr. Lutheran Book of Worship, 1978, alt.  
Text: © 1978 Lutheran Book of Worship. Used by permission: LSB Hymn License no. 110000694

## Holy Baptism

Maximus David Soriano; born August 12, 2023 to Jamie & Trenton Soriano  
Sponsors: Katelin Euler & Eric Winder

*When candidates are unable to speak for themselves, the sponsors answer the questions on their behalf.*

*Stand*

P In the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

P Dearly beloved, Christ our Lord says in the last chapter of Matthew, “All authority in heaven and on earth has been given to Me. Therefore go and make disciples of all nations, baptizing them in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.” In the last chapter of Mark our Lord promises, “Whoever believes and is baptized will be saved.” And the apostle Peter has written, “Baptism now saves you.”

The Word of God also teaches that we are all conceived and born sinful and are under the power of the devil until Christ claims us as His own. We would be lost forever unless delivered from sin, death, and everlasting condemnation. But the Father of all mercy and grace has sent His Son Jesus Christ, who atoned for the sin of the whole world, that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life.

*The pastor addresses each candidate:*

P How are you named?

R [Name]

*The pastor makes the sign of the holy cross upon the forehead and heart of each candidate while saying:*

P [Name], receive the sign of the holy cross both upon your T forehead and upon your T heart to mark you as one redeemed by Christ the crucified.

P Let us pray.

Almighty and eternal God, according to Your strict judgment You condemned the unbelieving world through the flood, yet according to Your great mercy You preserved believing Noah and his family, eight souls in all. You drowned hard-hearted Pharaoh and all his host in the Red Sea, yet led Your people Israel through the water on dry ground, foreshadowing this washing of Your Holy Baptism. Through the Baptism in the Jordan of Your beloved Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, You sanctified and instituted all waters to be a blessed flood and a lavish washing away of sin.

We pray that You would behold Name/s according to Your boundless mercy and bless him/her/them with true faith by the Holy Spirit, that through this saving flood all sin in him/her/them, which has been inherited from Adam and which s/he has; they themselves have committed since, would be drowned and die. Grant that s/he; they be kept safe and secure in the holy ark of the Christian Church, being separated from the multitude of unbelievers and serving Your name at all times with a fervent spirit and a joyful hope, so that, with all

believers in Your promise, s/he; they would be declared worthy of eternal life; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P From ancient times the Church has observed the custom of appointing sponsors for baptismal candidates and catechumens. In the Evangelical Lutheran Church sponsors are to confess the faith expressed in the Apostles' Creed and taught in the Small Catechism. They are, whenever possible, to witness the Baptism of those they sponsor. They are to pray for them, support them in their ongoing instruction and nurture in the Christian faith, and encourage them toward the faithful reception of the Lord's Supper. They are at all times to be examples to them of the holy life of faith in Christ and love for the neighbor.

P Is it your intention to serve [name of candidate(s)] as sponsors in the Christian faith?

R *Yes, with the help of God.*

P God enable you both to will and to do this faithful and loving work and with His grace fulfill what we are unable to do.

C **Amen.**

P Hear the Holy Gospel according to St. Mark.

They brought young children to [Jesus] that He might touch them; but the disciples rebuked those who brought them. But when Jesus saw it, He was greatly displeased and said to them, "Let the little children come to Me, and do not forbid them; for of such is the kingdom of God. Assuredly, I say to you, whoever does not receive the kingdom of God as a little child will by no means enter it." And He took them up in His arms, put His hands on them, and blessed them.

P This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

[\* *The Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.*]

*The pastor places his hands on the head(s) of the candidate(s), and the congregation joins in praying:*  
**Lord's Prayer**

C    **Our Father who art in heaven,**  
      **hallowed be Thy name,**  
      **Thy kingdom come,**  
      **Thy will be done on earth**  
            **as it is in heaven;**  
      **give us this day our daily bread;**  
      **and forgive us our trespasses**  
            **as we forgive those**  
            **who trespass against us;**  
      **and lead us not into temptation,**  
      **but deliver us from evil.**

**For Thine is the kingdom**  
**and the power and the glory**  
**forever and ever. Amen.**

*If the baptismal party has stood at the entrance of the nave to this point, they now move to the font.*

### **Processional Hymn**

P    The Lord preserve your coming in and your going out from this  
      time forth and even T forevermore.

C    **Amen.**

*Sit*

*The pastor addresses the candidate(s) and asks the following questions:*

Name/s, do you renounce the devil?  
R    *Yes, I renounce him.*  
P    Do you renounce all his works?  
R    *Yes, I renounce them.*  
P    Do you renounce all his ways?  
R    *Yes, I renounce them.*

*The Apostles' Creed ["Creed" comes from the Latin *credo*, which means "I believe." From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creational Church.] (Us men means all people)*

P Do you believe in God, the Father Almighty, maker of heaven and earth?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in Jesus Christ, His only Son, our Lord, who was conceived by the Holy Spirit, born of the virgin Mary, suffered under Pontius Pilate, was crucified, died and was buried; He descended into hell; the third day He rose again from the dead; He ascended into heaven and sits at the right hand of God the Father Almighty; from thence He will come to judge the living and the dead?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P Do you believe in the Holy Spirit, the holy Christian Church, the communion of saints, the forgiveness of sins, the resurrection of the body, and the life everlasting?

R *Yes, I believe.*

P *[Name]*, do you desire to be baptized?

R *Yes, I do.*

*The pastor pours water three times on the head of each candidate while saying:*

P *[Name]*, I baptize you in the name of the Father and of the Son and of the Holy Spirit.

C **Amen.**

*The pastor places his hands on the head of the newly baptized while saying:*

P The almighty God and Father of our Lord Jesus Christ, who has given you the new birth of water and of the Spirit and has forgiven you all your sins, strengthen you with His grace to life everlasting.

C **Amen.**

*The pastor may place a white garment on the newly baptized while saying:*

P Receive this white garment to show that you have been clothed with the robe of Christ's righteousness that covers all your sin. So shall you

stand without fear before the judgment seat of Christ to receive the inheritance prepared for you from the foundation of the world.

*The pastor may light a baptismal candle from the paschal candle and give it to the newly baptized while saying:*

P Receive this burning light to show that you have received Christ who is the Light of the world. Live always in the light of Christ, and be ever watchful for His coming, that you may meet Him with joy and enter with Him into the marriage feast of the Lamb in His kingdom, which shall have no end.

*The newly baptized may be welcomed with the following:*

A In Holy Baptism God the Father has made you members of His Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and heirs with us of all the treasures of heaven in the one holy Christian and apostolic Church. We receive you in Jesus' name as our brother and sisters in Christ, that together we might hear His Word, receive His gifts, and proclaim the praises of Him who called us out of darkness into His marvelous light.

C **Amen. We welcome you in the name of the Lord.**

*Stand*

P Let us pray.  
Almighty and most merciful God and Father, we thank and praise You that You graciously preserve and enlarge Your family and have granted [Name/s] the new birth in Holy Baptism and made [him/her/them] [a member / members] of Your Son, our Lord Jesus Christ, and [an heir / heirs] of Your heavenly kingdom. We humbly implore You that, as [he/she/they] [has/have] now become Your [child/children], You would keep [him/her/them] in [his/her/their] baptismal grace, that according to Your good pleasure [he/she/they] may faithfully grow to lead a godly life to the praise and honor of Your holy name and finally, with all Your saints, obtain the promised inheritance in heaven; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

*One or more of the following collects may also be prayed.*

P Heavenly Father, You sent Your own Son into this world as the child of the virgin Mary. We thank You for the life of this child entrusted to

our care. Help us remember that we are all Your children and so love and nurture [him/her] that [he/she] may attain to the full stature intended for [him/her] in Your eternal kingdom, for the sake of Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Lord and Giver of life, look with kindness upon the father(s) and mother(s) of [this child / these children] and upon all our parents. Let them ever rejoice in the gift You have given them. Enable them to be teachers and examples of righteousness for their children. Strengthen them in their own Baptism that they may share eternally with their children the salvation You have given them; through Jesus Christ, our Lord.

C **Amen.**

P Peace T be with you.

C **Amen.**

*All return to their places.*

*Stand*

## Service of the Word

**Kyrie**

204

C **Lord, have mercy;  
Christ, have mercy;  
Lord, have mercy. *Mark 10:47***

### Salutation and Collect of the Day

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Let us pray.

Stir up Your power, O Lord, and come and help us by Your might, that the sins which weigh us down may be quickly lifted by Your

grace and mercy; for You live and reign with the Father and the Holy Spirit, one God, now and forever.

C **Amen.**

*Sit*

### Old Testament Reading

*2 Samuel 7:1–11, 16*

<sup>1</sup>Now when the king lived in his house and the LORD had given him rest from all his surrounding enemies, <sup>2</sup>the king said to Nathan the prophet, “See now, I dwell in a house of cedar, but the ark of God dwells in a tent.” <sup>3</sup>And Nathan said to the king, “Go, do all that is in your heart, for the LORD is with you.”

<sup>4</sup>But that same night the word of the LORD came to Nathan, <sup>5</sup>“Go and tell my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD: Would you build me a house to dwell in? <sup>6</sup>I have not lived in a house since the day I brought up the people of Israel from Egypt to this day, but I have been moving about in a tent for my dwelling. <sup>7</sup>In all places where I have moved with all the people of Israel, did I speak a word with any of the judges of Israel, whom I commanded to shepherd my people Israel, saying, “Why have you not built me a house of cedar?”’ <sup>8</sup>Now, therefore, thus you shall say to my servant David, ‘Thus says the LORD of hosts, I took you from the pasture, from following the sheep, that you should be prince over my people Israel. <sup>9</sup>And I have been with you wherever you went and have cut off all your enemies from before you. And I will make for you a great name, like the name of the great ones of the earth. <sup>10</sup>And I will appoint a place for my people Israel and will plant them, so that they may dwell in their own place and be disturbed no more. And violent men shall afflict them no more, as formerly, <sup>11</sup>from the time that I appointed judges over my people Israel. And I will give you rest from all your enemies. Moreover, the LORD declares to you that the LORD will make you a house. . . .

<sup>16</sup>And your house and your kingdom shall be made sure forever before me. Your throne shall be established forever.’”

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

<sup>25</sup>Now to him who is able to strengthen you according to my gospel and the preaching of Jesus Christ, according to the revelation of the mystery that was kept secret for long ages <sup>26</sup>but has now been disclosed and through the prophetic writings has been made known to all nations, according to the command of the eternal God, to bring about the obedience of faith— <sup>27</sup>to the only wise God be glory forevermore through Jesus Christ! Amen.

A This is the Word of the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

*Stand*

### Alleluia and Verse

#### Alleluia

LSB 205

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### Verse

205

C **These things are written that you may believe that Jesus is the Christ, the Son of God. John 20:31**

#### Alleluia

LSB 205

C **Alleluia, alleluia, alleluia.**

#### Holy Gospel

Luke 1:26–38

P The Holy Gospel according to St. Luke, the first chapter.

C **Glory to You, O Lord.**

<sup>26</sup>In the sixth month the angel Gabriel was sent from God to a city of Galilee named Nazareth, <sup>27</sup>to a virgin betrothed to a man whose name was Joseph, of the house of David. And the virgin's name was Mary. <sup>28</sup>And he came to her and said, “Greetings, O favored one, the Lord is with you!”

<sup>29</sup>But she was greatly troubled at the saying, and tried to discern what sort of greeting this might be. <sup>30</sup>And the angel said to her, “Do not be afraid, Mary, for you have found favor with God. <sup>31</sup>And behold, you will conceive in your womb and bear a son, and you shall call his name Jesus. <sup>32</sup>He will be great and will be called the Son of the Most High. And the Lord God

will give to him the throne of his father David, <sup>33</sup>and he will reign over the house of Jacob forever, and of his kingdom there will be no end.”

<sup>34</sup>And Mary said to the angel, “How will this be, since I am a virgin?”

<sup>35</sup>And the angel answered her, “The Holy Spirit will come upon you, and the power of the Most High will overshadow you; therefore the child to be born will be called holy—the Son of God. <sup>36</sup>And behold, your relative Elizabeth in her old age has also conceived a son, and this is the sixth month with her who was called barren. <sup>37</sup>For nothing will be impossible with God.” <sup>38</sup>And Mary said, “Behold, I am the servant of the Lord; let it be to me according to your word.” And the angel departed from her.

**P** This is the Gospel of the Lord.

**C** **Praise to You, O Christ.**

*Creed [“Creed” comes from the Latin *credo*, which means “I believe.” From the time of Pentecost, the Ancient Christian Church has confessed a creed. The Early Christian Church has always believed, taught, and confessed these Scriptural teachings. This is why we are called a Creedal Church.] (Us men means all people)*

*Sit*

### **Kids' Time**

### **356 The Angel Gabriel from Heaven Came**

#### **Sermon**

*Stand*

#### **Prayer of the Church      1Timothy 2:1-4**

*Sit*

#### **Offering**

#### **781 We Give Thee But Thine Own**

*sts. 1, 5-6*

1    We give Thee but Thine own,  
    Whate'er the gift may be;  
    All that we have is Thine alone,  
    A trust, O Lord, from Thee.

- 5 The captive to release,  
To God the lost to bring,  
To teach the way of life and peace,  
It is a Christ-like thing.
- 6 And we believe Thy Word,  
Though dim our faith may be:  
Whate'er for Thine we do, O Lord,  
We do it unto Thee.

Text: William W. How, 1823–97

Text: Public domain

## Service of the Sacrament

*The Lord's Supper: If you are visiting with us or have not been instructed in the unique Lutheran teaching regarding the Lord's Supper, we kindly ask you to speak to the Pastor before communing. If you would like to come up for a blessing, feel free to do so. Simply cross your arms over your chest to let the Pastor know you would like a blessing. Thank you.*

*Stand*

**Preface** **2Timothy 4:22; Colossians 3:1; Psalm 136** *LSB 208*

P The Lord be with you.

C **And also with you.**

P Lift up your hearts.

C **We lift them to the Lord.**

P Let us give thanks to the Lord our God.

C **It is right to give Him thanks and praise.**

P It is truly good, right, and salutary that we should at all times and in all places give thanks to You, O Lord, holy Father, almighty and everlasting God, for the countless blessings You so freely bestow on us and all creation. Above all, we give thanks for Your boundless love shown to us when You sent Your only-begotten Son, Jesus Christ, into our flesh and laid on Him our sin, giving Him into death that we might not die eternally. Because He is now risen from the dead and lives and reigns to all eternity, all who believe in Him will overcome sin and death and will rise again to

new life. Therefore with angels and archangels and with all the company of heaven we laud and magnify Your glorious name, evermore praising You and saying:

**Sanctus** **Isaiah 6:3; Matthew 21:9**

*LSB 208*

**C** **Holy, holy, holy Lord God of Sabaoth adored;  
Heav'n and earth with full acclaim shout the glory of Your  
name.  
Sing hosanna in the highest, sing hosanna to the Lord;  
Truly blest is He who comes in the name of the Lord!**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

### **Prayer of Thanksgiving**

**P** Blessed are You, O Lord our God, king of all creation, for You have had mercy on us and given Your only-begotten Son that whoever believes in Him should not perish but have eternal life. In Your boundless mercy You sent Your servant, John the Baptist, to proclaim that in Christ the kingdom of heaven draws near.

With thankful hearts we pray, “Come, Lord Jesus,” confident that in His body and blood, given us to eat and drink, we receive the forgiveness of sins and so proclaim His death until He comes again in glory.

**Hear us as we pray in His name and as He has taught us:**

*[\* The Conclusion for the Lord's Prayer is not in Matthew or Luke. The Conclusion is from 1Chronicles 29:10-11, King David's prayer in the assembly.]*

### **The Words of Our Lord**

*Words of Institution: Matthew 26:26-28; Mark 14:22-24; Luke 22:19-20; 1Corinthians 11:23-25*

**Pax Domini** **John 20:19**

**P** The peace of the Lord be with you always.  
**C** **Amen.**

**Agnus Dei** **John 1:29**

*LSB 210*

**C** **1 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,**

**You take the sin of the world away;  
O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
Have mercy on us, Lord, we pray.**

**2 O Jesus Christ, true Lamb of God,  
You take the sin of the world away;  
Have mercy on us, Jesus Christ,  
And grant us peace, O Lord, we pray.**

Text: Stephen P. Starke

*Sit*

**Distribution**

**624 The Infant Priest Was Holy Born  
354 Arise, O Christian People**

*Stand*

**Nunc Dimitiss** Luke 2:29-32

*LSB 211*

**C 1 O Lord, now let Your servant  
Depart in heav'nly peace,  
For I have seen the glory  
Of Your redeeming grace:  
A light to lead the Gentiles  
Unto Your holy hill,  
The glory of Your people,  
Your chosen Israel.**

**2 All glory to the Father,  
All glory to the Son,  
All glory to the Spirit,  
Forever Three in One;  
For as in the beginning,  
Is now, shall ever be,  
God's triune name resounding  
Through all eternity.**

## **Post-Communion Collect**

P Let us pray.

...

C **Amen.**

## **Benedicamus (Psalm 103:1)**

*LSB 212*

A Let us bless the Lord.

C **Thanks be to God.**

## **Benediction Numbers 6:24-26**

P The Lord bless you and keep you.

The Lord make His face shine on you and be gracious to you.

The Lord look upon you with favor and T give you peace.

C **Amen.**

## **341 Lift Up Your Heads, Ye Mighty Gates**

### **Acknowledgments**

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### **The Week of December 24, 2023**

**Preacher:** Rev. Micheal Redecker

**Elders:** Victor Lozano, Don Olbert

**DCE:** Jonathan Peterson

**Ushers:** Bill Buxman, Dave Gruner, Carl

**Organist:** Marilyn Smith

Boydston, Ray Seeley

**Acolytes:** William & Elijah Vrbas

**Greeters:** Carol Petterson, Beth Weber

**PRAYER REQUESTS—** *“But when you pray, go into your room, close the door, and pray to your Father, who is unseen. Then your Father, who sees what is done in secret, will reward you.”* Prayer requests for you, family with permission, or by a pastor, may be sent to Beth Weber at [weber4342@gmail.com](mailto:weber4342@gmail.com)

## Messiah's Prayer List

**Continued health and healing for** Chris Ballard, Ralph Bickel, Mary Ann Bradshaw, Peter Chaney, Darlene & Darrel Clark, Lucy Clemmer, Desiray Gonzales, Stephen Hildebrand, Doug Johnson, Jimmie Kenner and family, Emogene Kukuk, Illona Rennels, Bob Rennick, Dorothy Roberts, Esther Schlauger, Karen Skoog, Shane Walz, Romaine Webb, and Jeff Vagneur.

**Fighting serious diseases for** Sharon Breshears, Bill Brodak, Dick Crinklaw, Denise Currie, Courtney Grieger, Misty Hannah, Steve Kaskus, Shane Larsen, Anna Marie Mautz, Barb Moore, John Moseman Sr., Melani Perschbacher, Debra Proctor, Shirley Robinson, and Diana Walche

**Continue to fight cancer:** Ralph Bickel, Karen Caldwell, Tyler, Rhonda Covington, James Hamleton, Les Hawkins, Leslie Hendricks, Barbara Huff, Mike Jerome, Carrie Lamgo, Chuck Magner, Marshall Mead, Walter Netzke, Leland Ottman, Amy Poulin, Loretta Siilata, Ted Skogen, and Sue Stepanek.

**Home Hospice Care:**

**Called Home:**

**Serving in the military:** Jake Bradshaw, Brian Carbone, Madison Lozano, Jessie Mello, Karen and James Moore, Caleb Schmidt, Brandon & Kayt Soine, & Eric Stahly.

**Messiah Lutheran members**

**Messiah Lutheran faculty and staff**

**Messiah Lutheran Church/School youth**

**Mavericks of Messiah:** *Continue to pray for the college students especially here at CMU.*

**Missionaries:** Rev. Tim Norton to the Navajo Nation and **Rev Dr. Karl Heimer**, Ysleta, El Paso Texas.

**Celebrating wedding anniversaries:**

*Joe & Marlena Diedrich (21)*

**TO HELP US KEEP THIS PAGE UP TO DATE, PLEASE  
SUBMIT CORRECTIONS TO FRONT OFFICE**

**Special Music for the 4<sup>th</sup> Sunday of Advent**

**Prelude-Organ/Piano**

**Marilyn Smith & Dona Ramsey  
Gesu Bambino - Pietro A Yon  
It Came Upon a Midnight Clear- Willis & Sears**

**Adult Choir  
Angels We have Heard on High - Arr. Tornquist**

**Postlude - Organ/Piano  
Marilyn Smith & Dona Ramsey  
O Du Frohliche - Arr. Bill Galliford**

**CALENDAR FOR THE Week of December 24, 2023**

**Sunday 9:00am      Worship, Communion, Facebook Live**

**4:00pm      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service  
7:00pm      Christmas Eve Candlelight Service**

**Monday 10:00am      Christmas Day Service**

**Tuesday 9:00am      Quilting Ladies**

**Wednesday**

**Thursday**

**Friday**

**Saturday**

**Sunday 9:00am      Worship, Communion, Facebook Live**

**ANNOUNCEMENTS FOR THE WEEK OF December 24, 2023**

**INCOME FOR THE PERIOD: Dec 13th thru Dec 19<sup>th</sup>**

**Weekly Donations \$14,583.18      Month to Date \$90,225.99**

**Weekly Need      \$21,278.00      Monthly Need \$85,112.00**

**Giving Tree-** Thank you to all who bought gifts for these families.

**The Lady's Guild** is collecting warm gloves, mittens, hats, and socks for all ages, for those in need. The **Collection Box** is by the west wall in the narthex.

**Communion Set up/Clean up Volunteers are needed for 2024.**

The sign-up sheet is on the west wall on the bulletin board. If you have questions, please contact Laura Ryden

**Handbell Choir-** will resume rehearsals on **Thurs, Jan. 11<sup>th</sup> at 6:30pm.**

**Adult Choir-** will resume rehearsals on **Tuesday, Jan. 9<sup>th</sup> at 7pm.** If you have any questions, contact **Dona Ramsey** in the office. **970-245-2838**

**Christmas Poinsettias-** Thank you for purchasing poinsettias. You may take your poinsettia home or give it to someone else after Christmas Day worship.

**Cookie Tins for Seniors-** Cookie Tins are ready for pickup in the Narthex, so if you are an OWL, (Older Wiser Lutheran) be sure to grab your '**Cookie Tin**'. If you see one that you could deliver to a friend, please do so. If you would like to deliver a few tins to others, we will accept your help.

**School Greeters-** Our school is looking for more morning greeters. Every school day we love it when our congregation friends greet the students as they come to school. Greeters are needed each day of the week from 7:35 to 8:05 starting January 9<sup>th</sup>. Please call or stop in the office if you are interested or need more information. The kids are excited to see your smiling faces!

**'2024' Giving Envelopes-** are available to pickup in the Narthex intermixed with the remaining cookie tins. If you do not find a box of envelopes with your name on it, then it was determined that you are an online giver and I have assigned you a number from 500 to 800. If you would like a box of Giving Envelopes, please let Deb in the office know.

**Safety Team-** will resume meetings on **Wed, Jan. 17<sup>th</sup> at 1pm** in the library.

**Rib City BBQ & Ribs-** Earn while you eat! Rib City **donates 5% of your food bill**. At all three locations, all year long! Ask your server about **Show Us Your Colors**. They will stamp your receipt. Bring that receipt to the **office**, & Messiah gets 5%!

**Men's Tuesday Morning Bible Study-** We will not be meeting until **January 9th**. We will be starting **Chapter 5 in January**. Please join us at **7:00am on January 9th**. For info, please talk to **Victor Lozano** at **970-433-7890**.

**Luke2Project** - Messiah will continue to start **Christ-centered conversations** during the Christmas season. Wear your **Luke2 shirt** as you are out and about. "Be prepared to give an answer to everyone who asks" (1 Peter 3:15). Let the Holy Spirit do the rest. **Christmas worship invitations** are available in the **Narthex**. The **QR code** links to [luke2project.org/locations/](http://luke2project.org/locations/). The inside of the cards has Messiah's Christmas worship information.

**Updated Greeter Sign-Up Sheet-** is available on the **bulletin board** in the **Narthex**. PLEASE NOTE that it is not only for the East & West doors, but now includes **signing up for the welcome booth**. Being a greeter enables you to meet and greet new members, visitors, and to renew old acquaintances. **Thank you for volunteering!**

**Thrivent Cards-** The office would like to keep a **private list** of Thrivent Card Holders. Since the cards can only be used every **6 months**, we would record when they were used so we would not be asking you to use your card again during that 6-month period. Thank you, **Deb Fenske**.

**The Pregnancy Center** - We have received some very nice second-hand baby clothing for The Pregnancy Center. These donations are always **very much appreciated**. Also, a special thank you to **whomever is knitting** the soft cuddly baby hats in such pastel colors. They are being very well received by both **The Pregnancy Center and Birthright**. We have also received some monetary donations which are always welcome and appreciated. TPC's current needs are **size 4 and 5 diapers, 9-12 month new and used clothing, and new baby items for their Layettes** which are presented to all the newborns. The suggested Layette items would be **toys, blankets, outfits, etc.** For further information on The Pregnancy Center, please check out their current newsletter on the **bulletin on the shelf near the elevator**.

**Latte Challenge-** to save the **Siberian Lutheran Seminary**. The Rocky Mountain District voted to donate **\$150,000** to this cause. Messiah's goal is **\$7,760** which is **\$12.50 per member**. You can put your donation in the offering. **As of Dec. 20th, \$2,073.00 has been donated! Thank you, Messiah!**

**Girls on the Run at Messiah** - Attention Messiah members! Girls on the Run is an after-school program for 3-5th graders and Heart & Sole is a program for 6-8th graders. We have hosted this program since 2017. We are hoping to once again host 2 separate programs, we need at least 4 volunteer coaches (2 each team) to help coach in the spring! Practice for both teams will be Monday and Wednesdays 3:15-4:30 PM starting Feb. 26. The season is 8 weeks long and will finish with a 5K event in Fruita on May 4. If you are interested and able to do it at least ONE day a week, please let Brittany or Marlena know. You DO NOT have to be a runner, have a participant in the program or be a mom, dads are welcome as well! We provide all training and materials (plus cool swag). Thank you so much! Brittany 970-628-5499 or [bmarkert14@gmail.com](mailto:bmarkert14@gmail.com).

**Thrivent Choice Dollars-** Thrivent members, do not forget to direct your Choice Dollars to the Church general fund or to the school scholarship fund. You have 2 easy options to direct your Choice Dollars: Online at [www.thrivent.com](http://www.thrivent.com) or by calling **800-847-4836**.

**LCMS Foundation Gift Planning-** Learning to acknowledge the abundance of God's blessings to us is the beginning step of putting together the gift plan within our overall estate plans. This Christmas when you receive gifts and consider writing Thank-Yous, try to communicate in those notes that you acknowledge that the gift came from the Lord through the one who gave you the gift. Then consider communicating that depth of blessing in the way you plan your estate. Your Messiah Gift Planning Counselor can help. Contact Jason Jones at Jason.Jones@lfnd.org or call him directly at (970) 988-0305.

**Messiah's Radio Ministry**-Sunday mornings at **8:30am – 9:00am** on radio station **1100AM/KNZZ**. It is followed by **The Lutheran Hour at 9:00am**.

**Lutheran Church Extension Fund** - has an investment opportunity for you. There is an **18-month** fixed rate term note at **5% interest**, with a minimum of **\$500.00**. Please visit [lcef.org/invest](http://lcef.org/invest) or call **800-843-5233** for more information.

**A Remarkable Investment with a Higher Purpose- For LCMS Members:** This offer is designed exclusively for LCMS congregations, schools, organizations, and individuals like you. **2½ Year Fixed-Rate Term Note:** Secure a steady 6.25% rate of return over the next 2½ years. It's a solid choice for those looking to grow their investments. **New Money Only:** There is exciting activity across the LCMS, and the demand for LCEF loans is stronger than ever – thanks be to God! Your new investment of a minimum of \$500 enables us to support this gr